

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for retrieving embolic coils used for treating an aneurysm, comprising the steps of:

providing a wire device that is pushable through a microcatheter and has a flexible distal portion comprising a distal collapsible arm with a latch member carried by the arm;

introducing a microcatheter into the patient's vessel leading to the aneurysm;

introducing the wire device, into the microcatheter whereby the arm collapses while it is within the microcatheter;

pushing the distal end of the wire device through the microcatheter whereby the arm opens when it extends out of the distal end of the microcatheter;

manipulating the latch member so that it engages an embolic coil to be retrieved; and

withdrawing the latch-engaged embolic coil and wire device through the catheter whereby the arm becomes collapsed as the arm is withdrawn through the catheter.

Claim 2 (original) A method as defined in claim 1, in which the flexible distal portion comprises distal collapsible arms with a latch member carried by at least one of the arms.

Claim 3 (original) A method as defined in claim 1, in which the wire device has a stiffer proximal portion than the distal portion.

Claim 4 (original) A method as defined claim 1, in which a portion of the collapsible arm is radiopaque.

Claim 5 (original) A method as defined in claim 1, in which the arm and latch are formed from a composition comprising nitinol.

Claim 6 (original) A method for retrieving embolic coils used for treating an aneurysm, comprising the steps of:

providing a wire device that is pushable through a microcatheter and has a flexible distal portion comprising a pair of distal collapsible arms with a latch member carried by at least one of the arms, the wire device having a stiffer proximal portion than the distal portion and a portion of the collapsible arm or latch being radiopaque;

introducing a microcatheter into a patient's vessel leading to the aneurysm;

introducing the wire device, into the microcatheter whereby the arms collapse while they are within the microcatheter;

pushing the distal end of the wire device through a microcatheter whereby the arms open when they extend out of the distal end of the catheter;

manipulating the latch member so that it engages an embolic coil to be
retrieved; and

withdrawing the latch-engaged embolic coil and wire device through
the catheter whereby the arms become collapsed as the arms are withdrawn
through the catheter.

Claims 7-18 (canceled)